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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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June 4, 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Office Building 212A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

As you know, Congress is focused on ensuring the federal government effectively and efficiently manages its information technology (IT) resources and protects the privacy, reliability, and integrity of its information systems. To help federal agencies in their efforts, we passed Clinger-Cohen Act (P.L. 104-106) which created agency chief information officers (CIO) and provides a foundation for responsible IT capital planning and investment control. In addition, we passed the Federal Information Security Management Act (P.L. 107-347), which established a government-wide risk-based approach to information security management. The agency CIOs play a vital role in implementing these acts and ensuring the IT investment and security decisions are consistent with the mission and goals of the agency.

As the Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the author of FISMA, I maintain a high level of interest in IT management issues. As part of my minority oversight agenda, I have developed a series of questions to assess how agencies are implementing key IT laws and the influence of agency CIOs. Your response to these questions will serve as the basis for our further oversight on information technology management issues.

As you prepare your responses to the following questions, I ask that you provide sufficient documentation and examples to support the answers you are providing to me.

1. Please provide the name and official title of the individual currently fulfilling the responsibilities and duties of agency Chief Information Officer as delineated in the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-106) and the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 ('FISMA') (P.L. 107-347). If the individual is

serving in an "acting" capacity, please explain the steps you are taking to finalize an appointment to this position.

2. Since FISMA was enacted in December 2002, how many individuals have served in the agency CIO position and what were the periods of their service?
3. Does the agency CIO have a direct reporting relationship to you? If not, to whom does the agency CIO directly report on a day-to-day basis?
4. What functions does the agency CIO's office perform? What is the CIO's jurisdiction within the agency? Also, please describe the structure of the agency CIO's office including total number of employees, their titles, and responsibilities.
5. Is the agency CIO a member of formal executive-level strategic planning, budget, and program-area process re-design committees, groups, or councils established in?
 - a. What are the responsibilities of the agency CIO on these committees and groups?
 - b. Has the agency CIO made, or played a vital role in making, strategic business decisions for the department/agency? Please provide several noteworthy examples.
6. Please outline the policy, operational, and budget authorities delegated to the CIO. What, if any, additional duties or responsibilities does the agency CIO have other than information resources management?
7. Do the component organizations that comprise your agency have designated CIOs? If so, please list the component organization, and the name and official title of the person serving as CIO for that component.
8. Please tell us (a) how are the component organization CIOs are selected, (b) to whom do they report, and (c) the parameters of the decisional and budgetary authority of the component organizations?
9. What percentage of total information management and technology expenditures are controlled or approved by the agency CIO? What percentage is controlled by component organizations that comprise your agency?
10. What resources does your Department or Agency provide to the CIO office and its organizational components to maintain an effective agency-wide security program?

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11. Please describe the agency CIO's role in developing information technology budget submissions and business case justifications for major information technology investments. Are the CIOs of the agency's component organizations involved in these processes? If so, please describe their contributions.
12. Please provide the name and job title of the individual managing privacy issues in the agency? To whom does this individual report and what responsibilities does the individual have?
13. Ensuring adequate information security in the federal government requires skilled and dedicated IT employees. The federal government, for example, finds itself competing against the private sector for talented IT workers. Do federal agencies have the resources necessary to execute the elaborate security measures that are necessary in order to maintain their systems and to keep the government connected to people and businesses?
14. What percentage of the total agency budget is allocated for IT? For security? Please provide a breakdown of the IT security budget.

Please provide your responses to me by June 20, 2007. After receiving your response, our staff may want to meet with your representatives to discuss the information provided. If you or your staff would like to discuss this request further, please contact Chas Phillips or Victoria Proctor at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Davis
Ranking Member